

House Resolution 306

By: Representatives Golick of the 34th, Pak of the 102nd, Harrell of the 106th, Riley of the 50th,
Marin of the 96th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 17, 2011, as Catholic Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began with missionaries in the 16th Century,
3 and for many years these Franciscan friars maintained a network of mission stations that
4 stretched from St. Augustine to the Savannah River; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established on July 3, 1850, with
6 its territory extending over the entire State of Georgia, and included a total of about 5,000
7 Catholics; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern 69
9 counties of the state, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese,
11 becoming the center of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the States of Georgia,
12 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah serve all 156 counties
14 of the State of Georgia, serving a Catholic population of nearly one million Catholics in 151
15 parishes and 37 missions and mission stations as well as nine Catholic high schools and 37
16 elementary schools, four Catholic hospitals, and a residential childcare facility, all of which
17 are available to all persons without discrimination; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their
19 institutions and their people, reached out to serve all people in Georgia, whether newcomers
20 or long established families, from all parts of the world, including refugees, immigrants, and
21 those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for
24 their commitment to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize February
25 17, 2011, as Catholic Day at the state capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Most Reverend Wilton D.
28 Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, to Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland, Bishop of Savannah,
29 and to Most Reverend Bishop Luis Raphael Zarama, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta.